12 Miles distant from his House, that they were greatly amazed with the Appearance of an extraordinary Brightness in the *Zenith*, resembling Flame, which continued for about 5 Minutes, and then the imaginary Guns were fired twenty or thirty times, which so disturb'd the Atmosphere, that the Birds lost the Use of their Wings, and fell to the Ground in great Disorder. This Noise was heard about fifty Miles each Way, from the bright Appearance aforesaid. — *Thus far the Captain.*

I heard the Noise (as most People did) but saw not the Brightness at *Patapsko*, being about 60 Miles from the Captain's House. I was told that the Shock, occasioned by the Noise, threw down Pewter that was set to dry against the Side of a House. As this in some manner resembled an Earthquake (which has scarce ever before disturb'd our Northern World) I should be glad to know your Opinion of such Explosions. From your humble Servant,

Richard Lewis.

IX. *A Letter from Mr.* Evan Davis *to Mr.* John Eames, *F. R. S. concerning some* Children inoculated with the Small-Pox, *at* Haverford-West *in* Pembrokeshire.

SIR,

HAD I known in the Beginning of last Spring that an Account of the Success of Inoculation in the Small-Pox, practis'd here about that time, would be agreeable to you, as you signify in your last, I would

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would not have delayed ſo long to communicate it. If the Account had then been taken with a View of ſending it abroad, it would probably have been more full and particular in ſome Circumſtances relating to the ſeveral Stages and Appearances of that Diſtemper in the Caſes of thoſe who were inoculated with it, than could now be recollected at this Diſtance of time; yet I hope nothing material has been omitted, that may be neceſſary for forming a Judgment on thoſe Caſes which you have here related. The Meaſles interfering with the inoculated Small-Pox, and prolonging the time between the Inoculation and the Eruption of this latter ſo much beyond what otherwiſe was uſual, as you will obſerve below it did in every one of the Inſtances mentioned, had, I thought, ſomething in it that was peculiar and uncommon, and therefore what might deſerve your Notice. This was the ſecond Opportunity that has been taken to practiſe this Method of Inoculation in this Town and Neighbourhood. It was firſt introduced here about ten Years ago, by the ingenious and learned Dr. *Perrott Williams*, who then lived in this Town, and had practis'd Phyſick for ſeveral Years in this Country with eminent Succeſs; but is ſince removed to *London*. He had then his own Children inoculated among ſome of the firſt on whom the Experiment was made, and (if I forget not) ſent an Account of that Matter about that time to your Society, which was afterwards publiſhed by Dr. *Jurin*.

Our Inoculators are two Surgeons of good Note and repute in this Town (who alſo keep Apothecaries Shops) and are the only Perſons that I hear of in theſe Parts who are come into that Practice. Upon my requeſting

queſting it, I received from them this laſt Week the Account following.

Some little time before laſt Chriſtmaſs the Small-Pox appear'd in this Town, chiefly of the confluent kind: Some had it with Purple-Spots, and other violent Symptoms, whereof ſeveral died. Towards the Spring, the Meaſles became more Epidemical, and alſo more fatal, than the Small-Pox. Some of the Subjects that had been viſited but a little time before with the Small-Pox, and upon their Recovery had their Bodies purged, yet died of the violent Cough which attended and ſucceeded the Meaſles, which afterwards ſeized them. The Meaſles continued to rage 'till almoſt all the Subjects in this Place were viſited with them, the Small-Pox continuing alſo during the whole time, yet making but a ſlow Progreſs; and to this time it has not left us.

About the End of *February* laſt, Mr. *Francis Meyler* inoculated his own Son, near three Years old, from a Child of about the ſame Age, who had the diſtinct Sort of Small-Pox, but the Puſtules ſmall. He made a ſlight Inciſion on both Legs, which took only in one: After four Days a Puſtule appeared on the Part wounded, but did not much inflame it, nor make much Progreſs. On the 7th Day the Child grew feveriſh, and on the 8th, or towards the 9th Day (inſtead of the intended Small-Pox) the Meaſles appear'd all over his Body, attended with a Cough; at which time the feveriſh Diſorder abated, 'till the 11th or 12th Day: Then he grew feveriſh again, and towards the 14th Day the Small-Pox appeared, a ſmall diſtinct Sort, and few in Number. After the Eruption was full, he grew hearty, and ſo continued, not being

viſited with a ſecond Fever. After this Mr. *Meyler* inoculated two other Children from his own Son, by applying the Matter, after a ſlight Inciſion, to both the Legs of each of them, but it did not ſucceed. About the ſame time he inoculated two other Children, a little Way out of Town, from a Neighbour's Child, but neither of them were infected. Its not ſucceeding he knows not what to impute to; whether to the Slightneſs of the Inciſion, or to the want of a Sufficiency of Matter to infect with, or to the want of a Diſpoſition in the Subjects to be infected.

About the latter End of *March* laſt Mr. *Richard Wright* inoculated a Daughter of *Tho. Kymer*, Eſq; of this Town, between 3 and 4 Years of Age, from another Child of about the ſame Age, who had a diſtinct kind. The Matter was applied to one of her Arms, the Inciſion being made pretty deep. The Inflammation thereof began about the 4th or 5th Day, and afterwards appeared conſiderably great. She proceeded until the 7th Day in a very hearty and briſk State, at which time ſhe began to grow heavy, ſick, and very feveriſh. Then an Eruption of the Small-Pox was expected; but her Fever increaſed, and the next Day there were Eruptions ſeen all over her Body, which proved to be the regular Meaſles. She was treated accordingly, and grew well, excepting a pretty ſevere Cough ſhe had, and this Cough continued through the whole Courſe of the following Small-Pox. About the 12th Day ſhe ſicken'd again, and about the 14th the Small-Pox appeared, the diſtinct ſort, and very favourable; they came out, fill'd, and dry'd away very kindly, and were attended with very little of a ſecond Fever. She went through the Diſtemper

ſtemper with a great deal of Chearfulneſs: She was purged afterwards, and ſeemed very well; but in a little time after, a Boil came on the lower Part of the Shoulder-Blade of the ſame Arm wherein ſhe was inoculated, which was brought to ſuppurate, and was healed in a common Manner.

From this Subject laſt mentioned Mr. *Wright* inoculated two Daughters and a Son of *Nicholas Roch*, Eſq; at his Seat, about five Miles diſtant from this Town. Theſe three Children were aged from 3 to 8 Years. The Inciſion was made in one Arm of each Child; it produced the ſame Effect on every one of them as it did on Miſs *Kymer*; viz. the Meaſles on the 7th or 8th Day, and the Small-Pox of the diſtinct ſort on the 14th Day. They went all three very well through every Stage of the Diſtemper; the ſecondary Fever was but ſlight. One of theſe had them ſomewhat thick, and the other two had a pretty many of the Pox appearing over them likewiſe; but they thoroughly recover'd all of them, and have all ſince continued in a good State of Health.

Thus, Sir, you have this Affair related by the Inoculators above named, in a faithful, and impartial Manner. You may be aſſured, though perhaps not ſo largely as you might expect, for the Reaſon before alledged: But if there ſhould be Occaſion for explaining themſelves in any Particular, they will readily do it when deſired. I know of nothing I have to add before I conclude, unleſs it be my good Wiſhes, that wherever this Practice takes, it may be attended with the ſame Safety and Succeſs that it has hitherto met with here; which ſeems to me to recommend it as an happy Expedient that Providence has kindly directed

to, in order to guard againſt the Injuries and Dangers of one of the moſt dreadful and deſtructive Diſeaſes incident to Mankind. I have juſt Cauſe, I conceive, to incline me to think very favourably of this Method, from what I have myſelf obſerved of its Advantages. In the Beginning of this Year I loſt one Child out of five I had, by the Small-Pox in the natural Way; and I have ſeen what great Sickneſs and Miſery the other four ſuffered, who all of them had the confluent ſort, in Compariſon with what the Inoculated underwent. One Boy of mine particularly, between 7 and 8 Years of Age, had it ſo violently, that his Life firſt, then his Limbs, Senſes, and Intellects were endangered by it; and he is not yet fully recovered from the Effects of it to his former good Health and Strength, though he had it in *Dec.* and *Jan.* laſt, among thoſe who firſt fell into it, when it came this laſt time to this Place.

Aug. 18, 1732.

P. S. Concerning the four Children above mentioned, on whom the Operation did not ſucceed, but remained uninfected after the variolous Matter was applied in the uſual Way to them. They have all of them ſince eſcaped the Meaſles, though moſt other Children about them had 'em, and none of them have yet had the Small-Pox, though it ſtill continues in the Town. There are not many now that are ſick of it, but it is of the bad confluent kind, attended with Purple-Spots, and watery Bladders that are mix'd with the Purples. It is obſerved, that moſt of theſe who have of late been viſited with it, have died thereof. This probably will incline ſome to uſe Inoculation again, and to make that Practice, under Providence, their Refuge.

I am, Sir, Yours,

Oct. 25. 1732. *Evan Davis.*